

Description of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Programmatic EIR/EIS Study Area

Sacramento River Region. The Sacramento River Region is essentially bounded by the ridge tops of the Sacramento River watershed or hydrologic region. The Goose Lake watershed, in the northeast corner of California, has been left out of the study area because it rarely contributes to the flow of the Pit and Sacramento Rivers---apparently Goose Lake last spilled very briefly sometime in the 1950's and only a few times in between 1869 and the present---and no actions are proposed in the watershed. Though the Trinity River is connected by a pipeline to the Sacramento River system, the Trinity River does not flow naturally into the Sacramento River watershed, and no CALFED program actions are being proposed for the Trinity River or its watershed.

Delta Region. The Delta Region is defined as the statutory Delta (in Section 12220 of the California Water Code) and is comprised roughly of lowlands (lands approximately at or below the 5-foot contour) and uplands (lands above the 5-foot contour that are served water by lowland Delta channels). The Delta Region has been carved out of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River watersheds because of the Program's focus on this region.

San Joaquin River Region. The San Joaquin River Region includes both the San Joaquin and Tulare Lake hydrologic basins. Although the Tulare Lake basin only intermittently---during wet years or a series of wet years---spills over into the San Joaquin basin, there are potentially significant water quality management issues linked to the San Joaquin River watershed (and ultimately, the Bay-Delta system).

Bay (and outer Bay or near-shore area) Region. The Bay Region includes Suisun Bay and Marsh, San Pablo Bay, and the Bay watershed. In addition, a zone of approximately 25 miles offshore from Point Conception to the Oregon border has been included to cover potential ocean harvest management of anadromous fish along the California coast. Certainly anadromous fish roam beyond this artificial boundary, but the purpose of this boundary is to identify the area where most anadromous fish from the Bay-Delta system occur and cover where harvest management actions would be employed. Though CALFED has not proposed specific harvest management measures, general effects of harvest management are discussed.

State Water Project and Central Valley Project Services Areas Outside the Central Valley. The service areas outside the Central Valley include small portions of Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Santa Clara counties outside the Bay watershed, served by the CVP (San Felipe Diversion). The SWP service areas include most of the urbanized areas of Southern California as well as Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. There are CVP and SWP service areas within the Central Valley but the Central Valley watersheds cover those areas. In addition, Imperial Irrigation District is included in this region because the significant water use efficiency and transfer potential in the District could help reduce the water supply and demand mismatch in Southern California urban areas.